

STONE PAVILION RESIDENTS ENJOY A “MAYBERRY STATE OF MIND”

Frances Corley, Tucker Center, Stone Pavilion

On April 28th, a group of veterans, staff and volunteers from E. Roy Stone Veterans Pavilion boarded a bus and embarked on a journey into the life of a famous movie star, Andy Griffith. The group took a long anticipated trip to “Mayberry” in Mount Airy, North Carolina.

As each resident is admitted into the facility, Activity Therapy asks about their favorite activities and to name one place or thing they would like to be able to do but had never been able to accomplish. These ideas are placed in the “Bucket Wish List” and Activity Therapy periodically draws out an extra “wish” for the possibility of fulfillment.

During the last draw, the wish for a trip to Mayberry was drawn, and the staff began to work to make this happen.

A Veterans group learned of the residents’ wish and provided a travel coach for the journey. Staff and other volunteers stepped forward to make the trip happen. The trip required two months of planning, but was well worth the effort.

The group learned about life in Mount Airy and the “Mayberry State of Mind.” They visited the Andy Griffith Museum, Snappy Lunch, the Old City Jail, Floyd’s City Barber Shop, the Andy Griffith Playhouse, TV Land Landmark, Andy & Opie Statue, Andy’s Home, Mayberry Courthouse, and Wally’s Service Station.

The group also made a trip to the Mount Airy Museum of Regional History, located across from the Main Oak Emporium. The group checked out the Donna Fargo exhibit in the Museum, and the Siamese Twins Exhibit at The Surry Arts Council.



The tour included a trip inside the gates of the world’s largest open face granite quarry, which makes its home in Mount Airy. The group learned about Mount Airy’s history and was able to view granite structures, such as churches, businesses, homes, the Mount Airy Municipal Building and the Mount Airy Post Office.

One site on the tour was the 1903 Victorian style historic home of Gertrude Smith.

The group arrived back in Columbia about 8:30 p.m. that night, tired but very happy and looking forward to the next “wish” chosen from the Bucket!

Photo: Activity Therapist Yvette Frazier organized the trip.

ADVENTURE: FATHER-DAUGHTER TEAM TAKE ON NAMI WALK

Tracy LaPointe, Office of Public Affairs

More than 800 people crossed the finish line at the 2012 NAMI MidCarolina 5K Saturday, May 19. But a very special pair of folks made perhaps the most triumphant, and moving, return.

Dondi Nicholas, an RN at Columbia Area Mental Health's Adult Clinical Services, and her father, Pete, were part of the DMH Recovery Allstars Team. Pete, 94, has Alzheimer's disease and lives in Columbia with Dondi and her mother.

"Dad has been with me for 4 years. When mom got sick, I brought him from New York State; now they are both with me," explained Nicholas. Though he uses a wheelchair to get around, Dondi is dedicated to taking her father on as many adventures as possible. The WWII veteran has flown in a hot air balloon, taken a camel ride, attended concerts and circuses, and sailed a boat on the Savannah River. Two years ago, the pair traveled to Washington, DC for the Honor Flights.

So, on that Saturday in May, both donning their DMH t-shirts, Dondi and Pete joined the crowd at the West Columbia Congaree Amphitheater. What the other Allstars didn't know was that Pete was not just determined to complete the 5K, he was going to walk across the finish line. He did.

As he approached the end of the park's trail, and with the help of friends and co-workers La'Quandra Nesmith and Jane Garmany, as well as Jane's husband, Larry, Pete switched from his wheelchair to his walker, and crossed the finish line to a round of cheers and applause. "I get so upset that people with Alzheimer's are 'put in homes' and not able to share things with others," said Dondi. "I hate to hear that some families who have loved ones with the disease don't take them out since they won't remember...I live for these moments with Dad."

With another adventure conquered, Dondi and Pete are looking forward to their next.

Photos

Top(LtoR):Dondi, La'Quandra Nesmith, and Larry Garmany look on as Pete prepares to cross the finish line.Middle:Pete crosses the finish line to cheers and congratulations. Bottom:Pete shares a kiss with his daughter Dondi.

Photos courtesy OMNIphotography, Heather Ransom, and NAMI MidCarolina.



BECKMAN CMHS COLLABORATES WITH LAURENS COUNTY HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

Donna Stover, BCMHS Laurens Clinic

For several years, the emergency department of the Laurens County Health Care System has been the temporary home for many psychiatric and substance abuse patients as they await an available bed in a treatment facility that can successfully treat their disorder. Many must wait for days and weeks in an emergency department that was originally designed to treat nine clients with a variety of physical health issues. A total of 171 patients endured these conditions during the last quarter of 2011, with 42% waiting 5 or more days. While the Telepsychiatry program has been utilized to assist in evaluating these patients, it has not been a total solution.

In an effort to reduce the stress on the local Mental Health Clinic, The Laurens County Health Care System patients who must endure a lack of privacy and treatment at a time when they are at their most vulnerable, the Beckman Center and The Laurens County Health Care System will be partnering to improve the conditions for

patients who are in crisis situations.

Through the efforts of The Laurens County Health Care System and the Beckman Center's Laurens satellite office, a contract has been signed to place a master's level mental health professional in the local emergency department on a full time basis beginning around July 2012.

A TOTAL OF 171 PATIENTS
ENDURED THESE
CONDITIONS DURING THE
LAST QUARTER OF 2011,
WITH 42% WAITING 5 OR
MORE DAYS.

This individual will provide assessment, crisis intervention, and individual/family therapy.

The clinician will work in conjunction with telepsychiatry physicians to manage medications and perform re-examinations in order to discharge these patients sooner

with appropriate referrals to the local care agency that they may need.

The mental health professional will provide immediate care to these individuals and provide more accurate assessments and information to the telepsychiatry physicians, thereby increasing their confidence in the decision making process to release, rather than admit, patients who could be treated locally. The clinician will also provide consultations on inpatients for local physicians, since there is not a local psychiatrist available in this rural community.

The Beckman Center is hopeful that by partnering with the Laurens County Health Care System that it will be able to reduce wait times for psychiatric and substance abuse clients in the emergency department, provide more timely treatment for patients, reduce time staff from the Laurens Clinic will spend in the emergency department, reduce the time emergency department staff must spend with patients who await placement in an appropriate facility, provide appropriate linkage and referral for substance abuse issues, and provide more timely and accurate information to telepsychiatry physicians.

The Beckman Center and The Laurens Health Care System are excited about this joint venture and hope that it will be a win-win situation for all involved.



**Out of the
DARKNESS™**
COMMUNITY WALKS
American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

**Riverfront Park
Columbia, South Carolina**
October 14, 2012
1:00 Registration
2:00 Walk
3:30 Closing Ceremony

Register today at OutoftheDarkness.org



American Foundation
for Suicide Prevention

PEE DEE MHC HOLDS MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS WALK

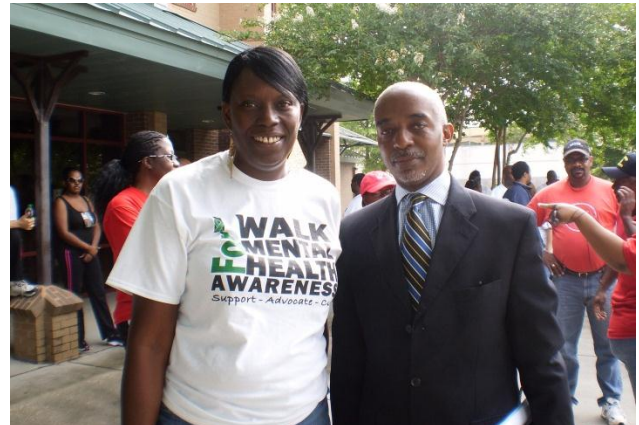
Rosemary Barile, Pee Dee Mental Health Center

May is Mental Health Awareness Month! Pee Dee Mental Health Center celebrated recovery with our annual walk on May 16. Over 250 people participated in this event, which was covered by WBTW, channel 13 and the *Florence Morning News*, our local newspaper.

On this beautiful day, we met at Pee Dee Mental Health Center and walked 1.2 miles to Maple Park. Reverend Terry Alexander, who serves District 59 in the House of Representatives, marched with us. We were joined by staff, clients, friends, family members, and local community and civic groups. Many wore tee shirts that read, "I Walk for Mental Health Awareness-Support-Advocate-Cure." Reverend Alexander addressed the large crowd and he read the Governor's Proclamation.

Alpha Kappa Alpha provided a first aid station and we appreciated the cold drinks after our walk. Mika Friday, the reigning Miss Hartsville, shared some of her thoughts, as Depression Recovery is her platform for Miss South Carolina July 2012. All enjoyed her performance as she sang Nat King Cole's "Orange Colored Sky," her song selection as she competes for Miss South Carolina. We were also joined by Elysia Miller, who competed for Miss Sneed Junior High School. As she competes in future pageants, she will choose Anti-Emotional Abuse/Anti-Bullying as her platform.

The crowd enjoyed a game of softball, horseshoes, and a dance contest was enjoyed by the crowd; we had such a wonderful time celebrating recovery and promoting awareness. Pee Dee Mental Health Center looks forward to our next walk in May 2013!



Photos Top right: Millie McFadden and Representative Terry Alexander, who served as speaker at the event. Bottom right: PDMHC staff walked to reduce stigma, promote recovery, and raise awareness along with friends, family, community members, and clients.

Below (L to R): Members of Head Start took part in the walk. Miss Hartsville Mika Friday addressed the crowd and sang. Staff from all offices took part in the 2012 Awareness Event



DMH 2011 OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES



Roger Williams
DOAS/Central
Administration



Stephen Morgan
DOAS Physical Plant
Services



Dr. James Ford, III
Aiken Barnwell CMHC



Gayle Rice
Anderson Oconee Pickens
CMHC



Greg Ross
Beckman CMHS



2011's Outstanding Employee Roger Williams accepts the award from State Director John H. Magill.



Stacy Albarran
Berkeley CMHC



Kimberly Sconyers
Catawba CMHC



Esther Hennessee
Charleston Dorchester
MHC



Judy Birchenough
Coastal Empire
CMHC



Betty Frazier
Columbia Area MHC



Jeanne McGee
DIS Centralized
Services



Judy DuPree
Forensic Services,
Bryan Hospital



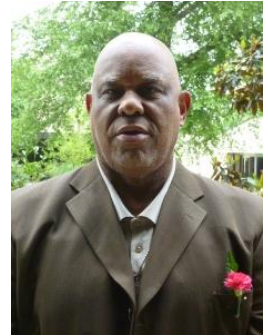
Rhonda Anthony
Greenville MHC



Wendy Stevens
Harris Hospital



Todd Shull
Lexington County CMHC



Cleophus Morris
Morris Village



Cassandra Keller
Orangeburg Area MHC



Florence Uchendu
Pee Dee MHC



Margaret Colquhoun
Piedmont CMHS



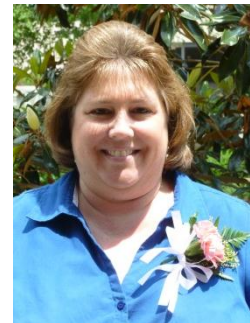
Glenn Ross
Santee-Wateree CMHC



Monica Eddy
SVP Treatment Program



Felicia Mack
Spartanburg Area MHC



Rebecca Black
Tri-County CMHC



Tammy Macon-Lindsay
Tucker Center



Robert Ann Johnson
Waccamaw CMH



Kathy Jenkins
William S. Hall

Outstanding Employees unavailable for pictures

Dr. Rhonwyn Carson-Moore
Adult Services, Bryan Hospital

Congratulations!

WHAT'S NEW AT AIKEN BARNWELL MENTAL HEALTH CENTER?

Articles by Tamara L. Smith, LMSW, Aiken-Barnwell MHC

ABMHC Employee Spotlight: Joe Stertz, Jr., CPSS

Meet Joe Stertz Jr, Certified Peer Support Specialist (CPSS) at Aiken Barnwell Mental Health Center (ABMHC). Joe was recently accepted into the College of Social Work Program at the University of South Carolina, where he will begin working on his MSW starting in the fall of this year. He received a personal note on his admission letter from Dean of College of Social Work Anna M Scheyett, saying, "Looking forward to having you here. Your dedication and desire to help others, especially consumers with mental illness, are impressive."

Joe has been working with Peer Support Services since 2009. He provides an array of individual and group peer support services including operating the Drop-In Center activities and facilitating the Double Trouble support groups. He is well respected amongst his colleagues at ABMHC. I have the pleasure of being Joe's direct supervisor at ABMHC, and was pleased to write a letter of recommendation as he pursues his education. Joe demonstrates teamwork and empathy on a daily basis, has exceptional insight, and uses this knowledge, along with clients' strengths and abilities, to help them move forward in their recovery. Joe makes a difference in the lives of others on a daily basis.

"For close to eight years, I utilized the services of community mental health centers in North Carolina and Virginia," said Joe. "As a certified peer support specialist, I use my knowledge and experiences as a client of the community mental health system to help those who are new to recovery, those who may be scared and unknowledgeable, to access the services they need in order to live their lives in recovery. At Aiken Barnwell Mental Health Center, we have seen many clients utilize Peer Support Services who go on to achieve independence in the community. In the process they form lasting support networks and make lifelong friends."

Joe received his master's degree in Fine Arts in Creative Writing from Old Dominion University in 2005 and a Master's of Divinity in Pastoral Ministry from Campbell University Divinity School in 2000. "I continue to learn every day," Joe said, "from my CPSS colleagues, everyone I work with and for at ABMHC, and especially from the clients we serve."

Joe is married to the Reverend Amy Stertz, who, he says, "has stuck with me and has been my single biggest supporter in my recovery. We have survived together. And with lots of help from Amy, we have managed to raise a well-adjusted three-year-old who will be four in July. Her name is Sophie."

Congratulations Joe. We are very proud of you and wish you much success as you pursue your educational goals and join the profession of Social Work!



Joe Stertz, Jr., and daughter Sophie

Employees Honored in SC Senate

Staff Report

On Wednesday, May 23, Senator Phil Leventis, Chairman Emeritus of The Blue Granite Program, recognized three of South Carolina's best mental health professionals. **Rick Acton**, **Tamara Smith**, and **Jeff Waddell** of Aiken-Barnwell MHC, were honored in the SC Senate Chambers for their extraordinary service, selflessness, innovation, insight, initiative, and persistence toward exceptional outcomes. The Aiken County legislative delegation and officers of the Aiken SC State Employees Association (SCSEA) Chapter

joined Senator Leventis in recognizing Acton, Smith, and Waddell.

Nearly a decade ago, The Blue Granite Recognition Program was founded by Senator Leventis to recognize the outstanding services SC state employees perform on a daily basis. Today, the program, in partnership with the SCSEA, continues to serve as a reminder of the complex and critical roles state employees play in protecting the wellbeing of South Carolinians in a rapidly changing environment. Congratulations!

Pathways to Recovery & Wellness

Health is one of the four dimensions that the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA) recognizes as integral to the recovery process; however, the impact of having a serious and mental illness and numerous barriers impede the ability to be healthy. Furthermore, research indicates that a large percentage of people diagnosed with serious mental illness experience significant medical issues and die an average of 25 years earlier than the general population. With that in mind and in conjunction with our Integrated Health Project/TTI, ABMHC launched several Wellness Initiatives designed for clients and staff.

The Psychiatric Rehabilitation Program developed a Wellness Program, *Healthy Minds and Healthy Bodies*, to help clients with severe and persistent mental illness understand the concepts and aspects of Wellness, identify the differences between chronic and acute health conditions, identify and practice self-management tools to manage illness and enhance overall

wellness and quality of life, and responsibility for healthy living. In addition, staff utilize the evidenced-based best practice program “Food Education for People with Psychiatric Disabilities” to teach clients about nutrition and healthy eating. A variety of outcome measures will be tracked, including physical indicators, such as weight, blood pressure, blood sugar, and cholesterol levels, and behavioral indicators, such as a reduction in tobacco, caffeine, alcohol, and drug use, and improvements in overall functioning and symptom reduction. So far, participants have lost a total of 47 pounds.

The Psychiatric Rehabilitation Team (also known as Community Integration) participated in two trainings sponsored by the SC Department of Health & Environmental Control (DHEC). Health Educator Corine Simpkins facilitated both trainings, *Eat Smart, Move More* and *Diabetes Management 101*. Curriculum materials were provided for staff to use as they help clients work towards healthy living. Staff plan to participate in future trainings

offered, including the *Walk with Ease* program and *Arthritis Exercise* program. In addition, three staff members serve on the Eat Smart, Move More Coalition in Aiken County.

Cindy Smith, Joe Stertz, Jr., and Wayne Moseley, all certified peer support specialists with ABMHC, participated in the recent Peer Support Whole Health Training sponsored by DMH as part of the Transformation Transfer Initiative. As a result, Peer Support Services is now offering a weekly group, *A Brighter Tomorrow*, using the curriculum materials.

In addition to the Wellness program for clients, the Employee Good News and Wellness Committee will be implementing wellness programs for staff designed to recognize their efforts and contributions to ABMHC and to enhance employee health and wellbeing. We are exploring projects, including a *Fruit and Vegetable Challenge*, *Exercise Challenge*, and *Holiday Health Challenge*.

ABMHC Celebrates Mental Health Month

Mental Health Month provided ABMHC the opportunity to promote the message that *Prevention Works, Treatment is Effective and People Recover* to our community and stakeholders. With that in mind, ABMHC sponsored several events.

Staff participated in St. John’s Methodist Church/Aiken Prime Timers Expo on May 22. Clinical staff had the opportunity to share information on services available to seniors in this area as well as the general public, distributing many brochures and business cards. The Center received an invitation to participate in the Fall Senior Expo, held at Odell Weeks Center, and CPSS Cindy Smith received several invitations to speak about mental illness and peer support. (Continued, page 9)



Melody McNeil, ABMHC Intern, and CPSS Specialist Cindy Smith, at the Prime Time Expo at St. John’s Methodist Church

ABMHC staff asked their local churches to use the Mental Health Month bulletin inserts during the month of May. Christian Heritage Congregational in Graniteville, Bel-Ridge Baptist Church in Belvedere, Mt. Zion in Aiken, and Mt. Anna in Aiken participated.

We would like to express our appreciation to all the churches that used the bulletin inserts to share information about Mental Health with their congregations and communities.

Peer Support Services coordinated “Movie Fridays,” wherein movies that depict mental illness were shown.

Hollywood Invades Aiken Barnwell Mental Health Center

According to the National Institute of Mental Health, one in four people are diagnosed with a mental illness. In addition, an estimated 46 percent of American Adults and children will experience some type of diagnosable mental illness during their lifetime. Mental Illness has been portrayed in many movies, although not always accurately, which can lead to misconceptions and stigma.

With this in mind and to celebrate Mental Health Month, Peer Support Services at Aiken Barnwell Mental Health Center sponsored Movie Fridays during April and May. Clients and the public were invited to attend screenings of *A Beautiful Mind*,

Harvey, *Nobody’s Child*, *28 days*, *As Good as it Gets*, *Lars and the Real Girl*, *K-Pax* and *Benny and Joon*. Discussions were held after each movie to answer the following questions: What diagnosis was portrayed? What signs of the illness did you recognize? Do you think the character portrayed the illness accurately? Why or why not? What type of coping techniques did the character utilize? What type of stigma or discrimination did you observe? What can you do to decrease the stigma associated with mental illness? Could you relate to the character in the movie; if so, how?

Many clients easily identified the illnesses portrayed, including

Participants had the opportunity to discuss the movies and discuss possible stigma issues represented in them.

Finally, ABMHC staff members were recognized as “SuperSTARS” for their commitment and dedication to helping others move forward in their recovery journeys. A “SuperSTAR” certificate was placed on employees’ doors recognizing specific contributions and achievements. Staff then had the opportunity to pay it forward by recognizing their co-workers anonymously, using the certificates.

signs, triggers, signs of relapse, effective and non-effective coping techniques, and personal experiences. In addition, participants shared stories of personal success, effective coping techniques, and ways to combat stigma. The clients and staff agreed that using movies as creative medium can be an effective way of educating others about mental illness.

Kudos to Certified Peer Support Specialist Joe Stertz for coordinating this event; everyone is already looking forward to the next movie event, planned for October and November.

PILLARS OF PEER SUPPORT SUMMIT VIDEO RELEASED

Katherine Roberts, Office of Client Affairs



The Pillars of Peer Support Services Summit was designed to develop and foster the use of Medicaid funding to support Peer Support Services in state mental health systems of care. The summits bring together nationally-recognized experts and stakeholders from across the country to identify and create consensus around factors that greatly facilitate the use of peer support services as a valuable tool to support recovery from mental illnesses among individuals served in state systems. To date, three summits have been held at the Carter Center in Atlanta Georgia, with each generating a report to provide a comprehensive summary of the results and findings, along with resources to help promote the mission of expanding Medicaid-billable Peer Support Services to all states.

The 2011 summit gathered leaders from U.S. states and territories to examine best practices in Medicaid and Peer Support Services for integrating healthcare across the full spectrum of behavioral and physical health. A number of participants were interviewed over the course of the meeting, and a video was compiled from some of the interviews. Only two Client Affairs directors’ interviews were included in the final video; I was one of the two.

The interviews can be viewed at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Z6rmK8GE6rc>.

LEGISLATORS SUPPORT MENTAL HEALTH ADVOCACY DAY 2012

Tracy LaPointe, Office of Public Affairs

Wednesday, April 25, marked the fifth annual Mental Health Advocacy Day. Coordinated by local advocacy groups, including Mental Health America-SC (MHA-SC) the National Alliance on Mental Illness-SC (NAMI-SC), SC SHARE, and Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities (P&A), the rally was held on the South side of the Statehouse in Columbia.

In addition to remarks from Executive Directors Joy Jay (MHA-SC), Bill Lindsey (NAMI-SC), Bonnie Pate (SC SHARE), and Gloria Prevost (P&A), SC Mental Health Commission Chair Alison Y. Evans, Psy.D., spoke and read a proclamation on behalf of Governor Nikki R. Haley declaring May as Mental Health Month in South Carolina.

Representative James Smith stressed the need for services for returning soldiers and their families. Representative Michael Pitts explained that, as a former member of Law Enforcement, he knows the value of mental health services. Individuals who are in need and are unable to access services often end up in emergency departments and jails. He pledged to make his voice heard for Mental Health wherever he could.

Senator Tom Davis gave a touching personal testimony of how mental illness has touched the life of a member of his family. He has witnessed, first-hand, the positive results that treatment can make possible and wishes to fight the stigma that is too often attached to mental illness.

A large crowd gathered outside of the State House to hear comments from numerous other notable speakers, including State Director John H. Magill, Gateway House Executive Director Phil Emory, and Columbia Area Mental Health Center Board Chair David Jameson.



State Director John H. Magill addresses the crowd, as (l to r) Gloria Prevost, Bonnie Pate, Commission Chair Alison Evans, Bill Lindsey, and Joy Jay look on.



The crowd included citizens from across the state who brought signs and banners supporting mental health.

Below: The rally was well attended.



DMH STAFF LACE UP AND GET MOVING FOR NAMI!

Tracy LaPointe, Office of Public Affairs

The National Alliance on Mental Illness holds more than 80 walks nationwide each year, three of which are in South Carolina. DMH staff are always part of these community events, which aim to raise awareness and funds for and fight the stigma associated with mental illness.

Thank you to everyone who has given to this important cause. Read on for details and photos from this year's Columbia and Greenville Events.

Mid Carolina

NAMI MidCarolina held its fifth annual Walk at the West Columbia Riverwalk & Amphitheater in Columbia Saturday, May 19. More than 800 walkers completed the 5K, helping Mid-Carolina raise more than \$75,000 to date. DMH staff formed multiple teams, including Carter Campus, Lexington Community Mental Health Center, New

Horizon's Stigma Stompers, WSHPI's Help Our Future Succeed, and the DMH Recovery Allstars. These teams, which included staff from Columbia Area MHC, Lexington CMHC, Hall Institute, Central Office, and the Division of Inpatient Services, raised more than \$1,100 for NAMI Mid Carolina.

Greenville

The NAMI Greenville Walk was held Saturday, June 2 at Fluor Field in Greenville. More than 1,000 people came out to enjoy the perfect weather and "Strike out Stigma," including the Greenville Mental Health Center Green Team, A Home Run for Mental Health, and the Piedmont MHC NAMI Walkers. These teams raised more than \$1,000 for NAMI Greenville!

Don't put those walking shoes away yet!

The NAMI Beaufort Walk is this fall. Mark your calendars for the 7th Annual Hilton Head Island Walk, Saturday September 22, at Coligny Beach. For more information, visit the Walk site at www.nami.org/namiwalks/!



Members of A Home Run for Mental Health (L to R) Heather Smith, Kim Fazio, and Susan Marshburn.



The Piedmont MHC NAMI Walkers! (L-R) Judi Phillips, Ebie Camelo, Pete Camelo, Medical Director Lynn Wright, MD, Candace Jackson, and Denise Stockstill.

MY TEAM FOR GREENVILLE MENTAL HEALTH WAS CALLED A HOME RUN FOR MENTAL HEALTH. I WOULD LIKE TO THANK MY TEAM MEMBERS WHO DONATED TO AND WALKED IN THE NAMI WALK: MICHAEL WOOD, SUSAN MARSHBURN, ALESIA LOWE, HARRY BATSON, HELEN GARLIN, WANDA MATTOS, AND ALL THE MANY OTHERS WHO SPONSORED OUR TEAM IN THE WALK AND HELPED US RAISE \$915.00 FOR NAMI!

- KIM FAZIO



Members of the DMH Recovery Allstars team came from Central Administration and several Midlands Area centers and hospitals!





**S & S Art Supply's
2nd Annual Silent Art Auction
& Fundraiser Benefitting
the SC Dept. of Mental Health
Art of Recovery Program**

Saturday, July 21st 2-6 pm
Open Bar and Live Music
with DJ Preach Jacobs and

Sponsors:








Event Located at 1633 Main Street, Columbia, SC 29201 . Phone: 803-661-9700 . Website: www.sandsartsupply.com

In Search of HISTORY...

The Lives They Left Behind & Bull Street: Life Behind the Wall

Who We Are: A local committee with representatives from Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Mental Health America-SC, NAMI Mid Carolina, SC SHARE, and the Department of Mental Health is working to create a museum exhibit on the history of mental health in the state of South Carolina, told from the perspective of the patients. The museum exhibit will be in two parts. First is the Suitcases Exhibit, “The Lives They Left Behind,” focusing on individuals who spent many years at the Willard Psychiatric Institute in New York State. You can find more information on that exhibit here:

<http://www.suitcaseexhibit.org/indexhasflash.html>

What it is: It is very important that the other half of the exhibit shows a similar history of mental health in South Carolina. The working title for this segment is “Bull Street: Life Behind the Wall.” Both exhibits are set to open on September 1, 2012 at the South Carolina State Museum, and both will focus on the lives of those impacted by mental illness and their experience in the mental health system (as patients, family members, etc.).

What We Need: Do you have stories about life at the former SC State Hospital or Crafts Farrow State Hospital that you would like to share? We are in search of photos, artifacts, stories, and oral histories – anything that can help the public understand the uniqueness of mental health care in SC over the years, and of Bull Street in particular. **We are in the process of developing a lending document to ensure all artifacts’ proper care and safe return.**

How You Can Help: If you have stories to share or artifacts you are willing to lend to the exhibit, contact **Tracy LaPointe** or **Connie Mancari** for more information about consideration in the show.

Mental Health Matters is a newsletter of the South Carolina Department of Mental Health (DMH). Produced by the Office of Public Affairs, it aims to bring items of interest within the DMH system to the attention of Agency personnel, the Mental Health Commission, mental health advocates, and other stakeholders.

Editor/Layout & Design: Tracy LaPointe
Contact: (803) 898-8581, TLL06@scdmh.org